

**Iowa Administration & Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee  
Prepared Remarks by Dale Woolery, Interim Director  
Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy  
1-24-12**

Overview

Good morning. As interim director of the Office of Drug Control Policy, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you regarding the Governor's 2013 budget recommendation for our office...and to briefly touch on some of our work to address important drug control issues facing Iowans.

As you may know, our previous director—Mark Schouten—was recently appointed by Governor Branstad to head up Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and our office is awaiting the appointment of a new director by the Governor.

Joining me today is Terry Graham, our fiscal manager.

The Office of Drug Control Policy is a small stand-alone executive branch agency established in Iowa Code Chapter 80E. Additionally, that code section establishes Iowa's 15-member Drug Policy Advisory Council and outlines the responsibilities of the Director of our office, who also serves as Iowa's Drug Policy Coordinator.

As further required by Iowa Code, our office submits an Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature, which we produce with the Iowa Drug Control Strategy as a collaborative way of assessing needs and progress, and establishing a blueprint for future priorities. A copy of the 2012 Iowa Drug Control Strategy was sent to you in November.

## Governor's Budget Request

In his State Fiscal 2013 budget recommendation, Governor Branstad requests \$346,213 for the Office of Drug Control Policy. This represents an increase of \$56,213 from our Fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$290,000, and equals the amount reduced from our budget last session from Fiscal 2011.

We respectfully request this restoration of funding to maintain current efforts, including our modest staffing level of 8 full-time employees. More specifically, the increase is needed to retain one position responsible for: assisting with our responses to emerging issues, such as prescription and synthetic drug abuse, and the meth evolution; operating Iowa's Pseudoephedrine Tracking System to combat meth labs; developing our Annual Report and Iowa Drug Control Strategy; managing data, and other duties.

Our office maximizes federal grant administrative funds to support approximately 78 percent of total personnel costs. However, because of limits on federal funding, an increase in state general fund dollars is needed to continue supporting these important efforts.

At current levels, for every one dollar in state funding appropriated to our office, we leverage and manage roughly \$30 in federal grant funds.

## What We Do

Our office serves 3 primary purposes: (1) coordination of substance abuse **prevention** and **treatment**, and drug **enforcement** programs; (2) drug control policy development; and (3) federal grants and program administration.

### 1. Coordination

The Office of Drug Control Policy takes seriously its role as a catalytic coordinator to identify ever-changing needs, prioritize promising practices, and maximize limited resources to produce timely and effective responses.

Drug control issues span multiple professions and agencies. Our office is an equal opportunity partner that works with drug prevention and treatment providers, law enforcement, health care professionals, educators, employers, non-profits, community coalitions, parent groups, policy makers and others...including public and private sector partners at the local, state and federal levels.

A few recent examples of collaboration include:

- Working with the members of the Drug Policy Advisory Council to produce the comprehensive 2012 Iowa Drug Control Strategy;
- Convening a task force of health care professionals and others to tackle the growing problem of prescription drug abuse;
- Partnering with the Iowa Pharmacy Association and National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws on a Prescription Drug Abuse Summit;
- Teaming with state and local law enforcement, the Attorney General's Office, local prosecutors, the Statewide Poison Control Center, health officials and others to organize professional training and public education on the new synthetic drugs (e.g., K2 and "bath salts"); and
- As a member of the Public Safety Advisory Board, working with other agencies on criminal justice reform recommendations.

## 2. Policy Development

Our office works with the Legislature, as well as the Governor's Office, on developing drug policy proposals. On occasion, we also work with members of our state's congressional delegation on **federal** issues of interest to Iowa.

Mainly, our office serves as a resource, providing policy makers with current data and information, including alerts on newer threats to the health and safety of Iowans.

A few policy examples involving input from our office include:

- Passage by the Legislature of Iowa's Pseudoephedrine Control Act of 2005 to reduce illegal meth manufacturing;
- Legislative approval of a Pseudoephedrine Tracking System, managed by our office as directed by Iowa Code;
- Passage of a Prescription Monitoring Program implemented in 2009 to detect and reduce suspected "doctor shopping."
- Last year, the Legislature banned some of the new synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones. We've also encouraged members of Iowa's congressional delegation to support a federal ban of these drugs.
- Currently, our office is preparing a new proposal for the Legislature's consideration to expand and strengthen Iowa's synthetic drug law to ban many newer versions of these rapidly changing and dangerous drugs that are sending more Iowa teens to hospitals.

### 3. Federal Grants and Programs

The Office of Drug Control Policy currently manages approximately \$9.4 million dollars from 9 federal grant programs for drug and crime control efforts throughout the State.

The largest of these programs is the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), a multi-purpose formula grant for which we use an annual planning process to award competitive performance-based grants that align with priorities in Iowa's Drug Control Strategy. We begin soliciting new grant applications for Fiscal 2013 next month. *(See chart and list on Page 1 of handout.)*

Grants awarded by our office currently support 155 projects and 76 FTEs directly serving about 80 percent of the State's counties. Some of our grants to state agencies cover all 99 counties. The types of projects receiving grant funds from our office include 20 multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task forces, as well as drug/crime prevention programs, offender treatment services and others. *(See map and partial list on Page 2 of handout.)*

As you know, federal funding is being reduced in many areas, including the U.S. Department of Justice, and our office is in the process of downsizing accordingly the grant programs we administer. I was in Washington two weeks ago to meet with Iowa congressional staffers and others. While no one can predict the future in DC with certainty, the Byrne JAG program is viewed as a “core” program that has strong bipartisan support.

Many in Washington believe the Byrne JAG program will not only survive, but perhaps become a model for other programs. Our office is in conversation with some of our federal partners about strengthening the Byrne JAG program through a renewed emphasis on statewide coordination, planning and accountability...using methods similar to those already implemented by our office.

#### Trends in Brief

Overall, the rate of drug abuse in Iowa generally is lower and more manageable than in most other states. However, we have too much substance abuse and are not without challenges that could grow even bigger if left unchecked.

We have seen substantial progress on the **methamphetamine** front compared to a decade ago, with only one percent of Iowa youth reporting they use meth and other indicators showing improvement since then. However, the demand for meth remains strong and we are now seeing a modest resurgence in meth-related problems. *(See charts on Page 3 of handout.)*

The emergence of **prescription** drug abuse is a growing concern, as is the more recent advent of **synthetic** drugs. These newer challenges are signature issues for our office, requiring quick action to increase public awareness to stem the tide while working with our partners on strategic policy and program responses. *(See charts on Page 4 of handout.)*

Other concerns, based on the large or increasing number of Iowans impacted, include underage drinking, marijuana use, and pockets of increased heroin use and overdose deaths.

### Functional Efficiency

A few have asked whether the Office of Drug Control Policy should exist in its current form or be dismantled with its functions divided between other larger agencies, and I've been asked to address that question today.

In my opinion: continuous improvement is a must to improve the effectiveness of public service; and those of us in state government should always strive to achieve greater efficiencies.

Trying to be as objective as possible, and considering the issues facing our state, I do believe Iowans are better served by our office in its current form, versus the alternative scenario. I say that because for the relatively modest amount of state funds needed to do what we do, I think Iowans get a good return on their investment in the form of results and efficiencies.

A few value-added examples:

- In 2000, the Office of Drug Control Policy streamlined operations, transferring two substance abuse prevention initiatives to the Department of Public Health and the STOP Violence Against Women program to the Attorney General's Office;
- In 2009, our office was the first state agency to pilot and subsequently fully integrate the efficiency-focused [www.iowaGrants.gov](http://www.iowaGrants.gov) electronic grant management system;
- Iowa's Drug Control Strategy is a collaborative venture led by our office to prioritize needs and resources, and prevent duplication of effort;
- As a separate agency administering federal grants with pass-through requirements for local, state and non-profit agencies, our office emphasizes strategic and performance-based results as a trusted and impartial arbiter of grant funds;

- Some of the policy changes pursued by our office have proven to be time savers for state and local law enforcement;
- Working with a variety of different agencies at all levels of government, as well as with private-sector organizations, our office leverages other resources that might not otherwise be tapped (e.g., competitive federal grants involving multiple state agencies); and
- Through the use of federal grants and partnerships, our office stimulates promising innovations. A few examples include: helping to establish Iowa's first Drug Courts; discovering an alternative federal funding source to cover local meth lab clean up costs; implementing anhydrous ammonia tank locks to prevent theft for meth manufacturing; supporting a distance-based e-treatment pilot project for drug-using juvenile offenders; and supporting a new Media Literacy project being piloted with middle school students by the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa.

As I said earlier, I believe there is always room for improvement. The Office of Drug Control Policy wants to build on this record of progress, while working with others to address—even more effectively—current and emerging challenges.

I invite you to participate in a site visit with some of our grant-supported projects. If you are interested, or would like additional information, please let me know.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to try and answer your questions.

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*For more information on the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy, please go to:*  
[www.Iowa.Gov/ODCP](http://www.Iowa.Gov/ODCP)